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Cluster munitions : decades of failure, decades of civilian suffering / ICRC

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General Note:	Contient: Cluster munitions : decades of failure, decades of civilian suffering (0938/002). - Cluster munitions victims : what is known and what is needed ? . - Cluster munition contamination : where are cluster munitions, what is their legacy ? . - Cluster munitions : what are they and what is the problem ? . - Cluster munitions : why do we need a new treaty ? . - Cluster munitions : what is the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement doing to reduce the impact on civilians ?
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Abstract:	Cluster munitions can contain up to 650 explosive submunitions. These are scattered over a wide area and many of them fail to explode as intended. As a result, they have caused death, injury and suffering among civilians in nearly every conflict in which they have been used. With billions of inaccurate and unreliable cluster submunitions in stockpiles around the world, the cluster munition problem has the potential to become far worse than it is today. To prevent this, the ICRC is calling on States to urgently conclude a new treaty that will prohibit inaccurate and unreliable cluster munitions, require the elimination of current stocks, and provide for the clearance of unexploded cluster munitions and assistance to victims.
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